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ACTION EA 19

INFO SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SSO 00,USIE 00,NSCE 00,
CIAE 00,NSAE 00,DODE 00,CCO 3,SAL 01,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,INR 07,
P 04,AID 30,RSR 01,/125 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

O R 231500Z AUG 67 ZFF1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5202
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3895
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2249
AMCONSUL DANANG 780

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 3838

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF SAIGON 3825

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN CAN THO

1. CIVILIAN CANDIDATES ARRIVED CAN THO 0840 AUGUST 23 IN CHARTERED AIR VIET-NAM DC-3. THEY WERE MET BY PROVINCE CHIEF AND WERE TAKEN TO CAN THO MARKET BY SEDANS AND TWO SCHOOL BUSES. THERE WERE NO SIGNS OR CROWDS ALONG INCOMING ROUTE. (NGUYEN HOA HIEP SUPPORTERS HAD MOTORCYCLE ESCORT FOR HIM). SECURITY PRECAUTION APPEARED ADEQUATE, MANY POLICE AND SOLDIERS IN EVIDENCE. CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 3000 WAS ON HAND.

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LISTENERS CONSISTED MOSTLY OF SOLDIERS (ABOUT 30 PERCENT)

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BROUGHT IN BY MILITARY TRUCK, CIVIL SERVANTS AND HIGHT SCHOOL STUDENTS, CROWD WAS ENTHUSIASTIC. SOME CANDIDATES MADE REFERENCE TO LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS.

2. FIRST SPEAKERS WERE SUU-DAN AND HUONG-TRUYEN SLATES. SUU GAVE BRIEF SPEECH TO EFFECT THAT IT IMPORTANT FOR NATION'S FUTURE LEADERSTO FOLLOW RIGHT PATH. CRITICISM WAS LEFT TO DAN WHOSE BEGINNING THEME WAS THAT MILITARY DRAFT IS NOT APPLIED EQUALLY. DAN SAID THAT NEWLY DRAFTED ARE COLLECTED BY POLICE AND ARE CARRIED OFF IN TRUCKS, "LIKE PIGS". CROWD LAUGHED LOUDLY. DAN SAID SOLDIERS ARE TREATED POORLY, CAUSING POOR MORALE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE RICH BUY THEIR WAY OUT OF DRAFT AND THAT GENERALS WIVES PLAY CARDS WITH DRAFT MONEY. DAN STATED THAT THE WAR IS NOT ONLY MILITARY BUT IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL ALSO: A RESULT OF SOCIAL INJUSTICES AND NOT JUST COMMUNISM. DAN ALSO SPOKE ON IMPROVING EDUCATION, SAYING THAT A GOOD TEACHER IS WORTH MORE THAN A POOR SOLDIER AND SHOULD NOT BE DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY. HE RECOMENDED THAT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BE EXPNDED AND THAT FRENCH SYSTEM NOT BE FOLLOWED. CROWD LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND CHEERED DURING SPEECH.

3. TRAN VAN HUONG AND MAI THO TRYUYEN CAME NEXT. THEY RECEIVED MOST ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD REACTION OF THE DAY. HUONG SPOKE FIRST, SAYING THAT WAR HAS LASTED TOO LONG CAUSING MANY SOCIAL PROBLEMS TO BE LEFT UNATTENDED. THE NATION MUST HAVE

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LEADERS WITH A SENSE OF DUTY. THE WO MAIN SOCIAL EVILS ARE THAT THE PEOPLE CANNOT TRUST THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT WILL NOT DO ITS DUTY, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN CREATED BY THE PEOPLE BUT PUT IN POWER BY FORCE; THOSE IN POWER USE IT FOR PRIVATE GAIN. THESE EVILS MUST BE CORRECTED. AS LONG AS THE MILITARY ARE IN POWER THE CHANCEFOR PEACE SAID HUONG, ARE NOT GOOD. MANY TODAY SUFFER BECAUSE OF SOCIAL UNJUSTICES, CREATING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VIET CONG. HUONG EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF USING VOTE WISELY.

4. TRUYEN CAME NEXT. HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THERE COULD BE NO

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PEACE WITH A GOVERNMENT NOT OF THE PEOPLE THERE MUST BE A FAIR ELECTION WITH EQUAL CAMPAIGN FACILITIES FOR ALL. FACILITIES MUST BE NATURALLY BE THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES HAVE HAD UNFAIR ADVANTAGE IN CAMPAIGN. GVN HAD NOT HELPEDTHE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES GET OUT AND SEE THE PEOPLE. "THEY HAVE PLANES, WE HAVEGARBAGE TRUCKS." TRUYEN CIRTICIZED PRIME MINISTER KY'S TELEVISION ADDRESS OF AUGUST 21 AS EXAMPLE OF UNFAIR CAMPAIGN ADVANTAGE. TRUYEN WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT EACH MILITARY VOTER IS GETTING TWO CARDS, ONE FOR VOTING AS A MEMBER OF HIS UNIT AND ONE FOR VOTING BY HIS FAMILY. "KY SAID THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE BUT I SPEAK THE TRUTH AND WE CAN BRING OUT EVIDENCE IF GOVERNMENT WILL PROMISE NOT TO HARM THE WITNESS.

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TRUYEN OBJECTED WHEN HIS ALLOTED TIME RAN OUT, SAYING THAT HE BEING PRESSURED AND IF THOSE SORT OF PRESSURES CONTINUE, "WAR WILL LAST FOREVER." HE DREW LOUD CHEERS.

5. NEXT WAS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THIE AND KY WHO APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR ABSENCE. HE WAS BOOED BY AUDIENCE.

6. NGUYEN DNH QUAT GAVE GENERAL SPEECH, SAYING THAT MARIN IRRESPONSIBLE PROMISES ARE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND NOT FULLFILLED. THE PEOPLE HAVE THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY IN THEIR HANDS. HE PROMISED TO ELIMINATE SOCIAL INJUSTICES IF ELECTED AND TO CORRECT OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS. UNDER HIS REGIME, PROMISED QUAT, "INDEPENDENCE RALACE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PEOPLE."

7. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF HOANG CO BINH (NOT BIAH'S RUNNING MATE AS REPORTED REFTEL; FOLLOWED QUWG. HE ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO PROBLEM OF MILITARY UNITY AND THE PROBLEM OF UNJUST PROMOTIONS, SAYING THAT CERTAIN OFFICERS HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO GENERAL VERY RAPIDLY. SUCH INEQUALITIES WOULD NOT OCCUR OF HE WERE ELECTED. HE ALSO SPOKE OF IMPROVING HOUSING AND EDUCATION. IN QUESTION PERIOD REPRESENTATIVE WAS ASKE WHY HOANG CO QCINH SAID ELECTION OF THIEU AND KY WOULD BE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE. HE ANSWERED THAT THE ASSEMBLY WAS "FORCED" TO

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APPROVE THE THIEU-KY LIST EVEN THOUGH THIEU AND KY D G NOT RESIGN POSITIONS TO RUN.

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8. HA THUCK KY IMMEDIATELY OPENED FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. HE WAS ASKED HIS OPINION OF STATEMENT ALLEDGEDLY MADE BY KY IN DANANG TO EFFECT THAT DEMOCRACY MEANS OTHING (KY HAS BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION AT SEVERAL OTHER CAMPAIGN STOPS.) KY SAID STATEMENT SHOWS THAT PRIME MINISTER KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT DEMOCRACY. HE WENT ON TO NOTE REMARK ONCE ATTRIBUTED TO PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSING REGARD FOR HITLER. KY WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT HAVING "OPPRESSED" BUDDHISTS DURING HIS TERM AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. HE REFUTED CHARGE. WHEN ASKED THAT THIEU AND KY HAD DONE TO OPPRESS DEMOCRACY, KY MENTIONED DONG HA INCIDENT AND SAID CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED SINCE BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN. HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF HIS CAMPAIGN WORKERS WERE ARRESTED RECENTLY (CMHUE. NGYEN VAN NGAI APPEARED WITH KY. IN ANSER TO QUESTIONER WOONDERING WHY CANDIDATES COULD NOT STAY LONGER
I
(CAN THO, NGAI SAID CIVILIAN CANDIDATES HAD FAVORED MUCH LONGER CAMPAIGN, BUT GVN AND FEW ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES PLOTTED TO KEEP CAMPAIGN SHORT SO THAT CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE INSUFFICIEN TIME TO SPEAK WITH PEO
LE. KY DREW GOOD CROWD REACTION.
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ACTION EA 19

INFO SSO 00, USIE 00, SCE 00, CIAE 00, SAE 00, DODE 00, CCO 03, SAL 01,
SP 02, SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, L 03, H 02, SAH 03, INR 07,
P 04, AID 30, RSR 01, /125 W

O R 231500Z AUG 67 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5203
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3896
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2250
AMCONSUL DANANG 781

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 3838

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

9. TRAN VAN LY STRESSED IMPORTANCEOF GOOD GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND GOOD ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID GOVERNMENT MUST SOLVE DIVISIONS AMONG MILITARY AND RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL

PAGE TWO RUMJIR 3838/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
GROUPS. HE ALSO ATTACHED CORRUPTION. LY TALKED ABOUT NATIONAL SOVEREIGNITY AND PROBLEMS CREATED BY FOREIGN TROOPS IN THE COUNTRY, WHO CAUSE INCIDENTS WHICH VIOLATE TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS. NATIONAL SOVEREIGNITY CAN ONLY BE PROTECGED BY A TRUE DEMOCRACY. LY BLAMED THE WAR ON VIET CONG AGGRESSION, SAYGIN IT IS NOT A CIVIL WAR. SOUTH VIETNAMESE WANT PEACE BUT ONLY IN EQUALTY AND FREEDOM. RUNNING MATE HUYNH CONG DUONG SAID THAT IF ELECTED LY WOULD DIRECT RESOURCES OF GOVERNMENT TO RURALY AREASM

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10. VU HONG KHANH SAID THAT ONLY THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CAN SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. IF THEY WANT THE WAR TO BE WON AND TO HAVE PEACE THEY MUST ELECT A GOOD GOVERNMENT. HE DENOUNCECED THE ROLE OF THIEU AND KY IN THE ELECTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT SALE ENJOYS UNEQUAL FACILITIES. KHANH'S RUNNING MATE DUONG TRUNG DONG THEM SPOKE. NOTIN THAT KHANH IS "TOO OLD TO BE AMBITIOUS."

PAGE TRHEE RUMJIR 3838/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

11. NGUEYN HOA HIEP STRESSED VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NOTING THAT WHILE COUNTRY IS THE RICE BASKET OF ASIA, IT MUST NOW IMPORT RICE. THE PROBLEM OF VIENTAM CANNOT BE DECIDED BY MILITARY MEANS ALONE. THERE MUST BE GOOD LEADERSHIP AND AN IMPROVED ECONOMY AND SOCIETY. HEIP ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT UNFAIRNESS IN THE CAMPAIGN.

12. LY QUOC SINH, REPRESENTING PHAM HUY CO, SPOKE NEXT, AS USUAL, SINH SAID THAT THERE COULD BE PEACE TALKS ONLY F THE VIET CONG ARE DEFEATED ON THE BATTLEFIELD. HENOTED HOWEVER THAT SOUTH VIETNAMSE DO NOT WANT TO "LIBERATE" THE NORTH. SINH CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT CAPAPBLE OF UNITING THE PEOPLE TO SAVE THE COUNTRY.

13. LAST TO SPEAK WAS TRUONG DINH DZU. DZU APPROVED OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES' PROGRAMS BUT SAID THEY COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH PEACE. VIETNAM WAR IS NOT JUST MILITARY PROBLEM; IT ALSO INVOLVES PROBLEMS OF JUSTICE ANDMORALITY. PEOPLE OF VIETNAM TRULY WANT PEACE. DZU SAID THAT HE IS READY TO WELCOME THE VIET CONG BACK TO THE NATIOAL FOLD. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION HE REPEATED HIS PEACE PROPOSALS, INCLUDING HALT TO BOMBING OF NORTHVIETNAM AND TALKS ONLY WITH HANOI BY THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. DZU RECEIVED POLITE BUT NOT OUTSTANDING REPSONSE FROM CROWD.

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